

The Weather:
Raining Selectees again

THE DIXIE

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE DIXIE (31ST) DIVISION

"IT SHALL BE DONE"

VOLUME 1

CAMP BLANDING, FLORIDA, Friday, March 28, 1941

Number 12

Entertainers To Visit Camp

Officers and men of the 31st Division will have an opportunity Sunday afternoon of seeing and hearing one of the outstanding stage attractions now in the South, when, through the courtesy of the Roosevelt hotel in Jacksonville, the Pation Grill floor show will be presented at the 31st Division Theatre.

Manager Charles B. Griner of the Roosevelt, who has made this free attraction possible, has announced that the program will include personal appearances of Isham Jones and his band; Gene Austin and Company; Harvey Bell, master of ceremonies and singer; Virginia Atter, Vocalist; Eugene Southern, Acrobatic and Tap Dancing; and Jimmy Bigelow, the Banjo King.

The company of 30 performers will arrive in Camp about noon, and will make a brief inspection of the area before the show starts promptly at 3 o'clock. Due to the fact that facilities of the Theatre will not accommodate the crowds expected, Lt. Mose Wanner, Theatre Officer, has warned that it will be a matter of "first come, first served." All who attend the 1:00 o'clock matinee to see Kay Kyser, Peter Lorre, Boris Karloff and Bela Lugosi in "You'll Find Out," will be permitted to retain their seats for the stage attraction. If there is additional room, which is doubtful, those waiting outside will be admitted free.

Immediately following the show at the 31st Division Theatre, the same program will be presented at the 43rd Division Theatre.

The regular screen program will be resumed Sunday night at 6:30, with two complete performances.

He Has To Stuff But Not With Food

The Army might be fitting its men better with the clothes it issues than it did in '17-'18 . . . but don't ask Pvt. O'Neal Labit, Co. C, 156th Inf., to swear to it.

Labit, who weighs 115 lbs., was issued a pair of pants with a 40 inch waist.

He remedies the situation by stuffing the pants . . . both in the back and front . . . with pillows.

Energetic Infantry Consolidates Position

Firm believers in "tents with a homely atmosphere" are members of Co. A, 156th Inf. For the last few week-ends, the boys had been building two clothes closets in each tent. Last Saturday and Sunday, their closets being finished, they put in two desks per tent.



Jitterbugs Jive At Contest

A slight sample of the enthusiasm shown when the bands from the 114th Field Artillery and the 116th Field Artillery met in a headlong collision of jive. This 'battle of the bands,' resulting in a tie decision, opened the new Division Service Club and afforded music lovers of the Dixie troops a hot sample of what is to come in the way of musical entertainment.

—Staff Photo

Brotherly Love In Quantities Here

Speaking of records, here's one for the books: Company E of the 167th Infantry which is from Guntersville, Alabama, has 23 sets of brothers in the company. Two of the sets have three members from the same family. It's our idea that there should be plenty of brotherly love around this company street!

Corporal Out of Flags Sends Via Twigs

Lt. L. C. Cadenhead and Corp. I. C. Reid, of Anti-Tank Battery, 114th F. A., are to be commended for their ingenuity, or was it intelligence? Lacking flags while in the field recently, the corporal used two small leafy twigs to send a necessary message. The intelligence part came from the Lieutenant: he could actually read it.

116th F. A. Receives Medical Equipment

The 116th Field Artillery Wednesday was assigned two new Dodge ambulances each containing two emergency kits. The new ambulances have four-wheel drive, patterned on the "jeep wagon" style.

Co. I, 156th Wins

A softball team from Co. I, 156th Inf., beat a team from Co. B, 156th, Sunday afternoon 2-1 . . . cutting meat!

New Equipment For Alabamans

The 167th Infantry Boxing team was presented some fight training equipment, in addition to that furnished by the army, by Col. Landgrebe of Birmingham and the Golden Gloves Committee also of Birmingham. The equipment consists of two punching bags, three fast bags, three head-protectors, three sets of 12 oz. gloves and various other items of fighting equipment. Petey Sarron will use this in training his fight team and keeping the regiment fit. Sarron, former featherweight champion of the world, has been made assistant to the recreation officer.

No Night Too Dark For Smart Sgt.

The boys in his tent may tear the roof off but that doesn't disturb Sgt. Ted L. Jones, Service Co., 156th Inf., when he is writing letters at night. When he can't concentrate in the tent, he merely goes outside. No, he doesn't have cat's eyes. He does it with a pencil attached to a flashlight.

With Less Pay

The Army isn't much of a change from civilian life thinks Selectee Manuel Calamia, now assigned to Co. A, 156th Inf. Selectee Calamia was a butcher back home in Baton Rouge, La. On his first day as K. P. in the infantry Calamia was put to work. He has made too much progress.

30,000 TROOPS TO MASS IN FLAG DAY CEREMONY

History To Be Taught 155th Selectees

Selectees assigned to the 155th Infantry, oldest regiment in the 31st Division, are being acquainted with the unit's fine history and tradition, in a series of talks by the regimental chaplain, Captain James L. Sandlin. Accompanied by Colonel George E. Hogboom, regimental commander, the chaplain was guest of Company M for supper in the organization's mess hall Monday night, where the regimental colors were displayed and its crest explained.

Chaplain Sandlin displayed the battle streamers won by the famous old regiment since its organization as the First Mississippi Infantry in the year 1798. These talks will be continued throughout the regiment with the officers visiting different units each evening.

Recreation Center Opens At Starke

Practically on our own doorsteps is the newest recreational center for Camp Blanding soldiers, opened this week at Starke. Located in the former American Legion hall just off Call St., the building provides facilities for games such as ping-pong, checkers, shuffleboard, darts, etc.; entertainment, such as plays and quiz programs; and reading and writing.

J. J. Nuttall, of Orlando, is director of the project. He holds a physical education degree and has served as assistant recreational supervisor for central project.

Lawrence Whitney Morel, his assistant, is from Charleston, S. C., but has spent the majority of his life traveling abroad. He speaks all the major languages of Europe and knows many of the Asiatic tongues, in addition to games from all over the world.

The three women assistants, Miss Nellie Hart, Miss Helen McGrath and Mrs. Bonnie L. Parish are all widely known in recreational work.

This Driver Was A Little Too Good

The Division showed quite a bit of knowledge and progress in the general inspection last week, but the officers are seriously considering giving a driver in Hq. Co., 155th Infantry, a vacation. He has made too much progress.

During their demonstration, the chauffeurs were supposed to camouflage their vehicles; each to be judged by the effectiveness of the hiding. This certain driver did such a thorough job that his car was not found; but it also took him an hour to locate it.

Dixiedoodle Says:
Visit the new Starke Recreation Center . . .

Flag Day celebration at Camp Blanding will be Sunday, April 6. A brief program for the event had been arranged under the direction of Col. O. W. McNeese, 31st Division Public Relations Officer.

Troops of both the 31st and 43rd Divisions will be amassed on the Parade Field on either side of the flagpole, each Division on its respective side. Also, the various troops of other units stationed here will be present along with civilian guests. A short but impressive ceremony of raising the Camp Flag will be witnessed at this new camp for the first time. Several bands of the two divisions will play for the occasion, and the flag will be raised by the colorful General Albert H. Blanding, retired National Guardsman of Florida, formerly commander of the 31st Division and after whom the Camp was named.

The ceremonies will take place at 2:00 and will be brief.

Guests of honor will include the Governors of Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Mississippi and Louisiana; Lieut.-General Herbert J. Brees, commander of the Third Army, Major General Jay L. Benedict, commander of the Fourth Corps, Brigadier General John P. Smith, commander of the Fourth Corps Area and the Adjutant General.

A temporary stand will be erected for the distinguished visitors. Several thousand guests are expected in addition to the more than thirty thousand soldiers who will participate and witness the ceremony.

Get A Bargain And Help A Buddy

Soldier, if you'd like to enjoy the beauties of nature and the piscatorial art on Lake Kingsley this summer, as well as help a buddy who has lost an eye in the line of duty, then here's your chance. Pfc. James G. Hubbard, who was blinded while on duty in the field and is now waiting in the hospital for a discharge, sends us the following ad . . .

"For sale: Twelve foot canvas boat. Weight 50 pounds. Practically new. Originally cost \$40, will sacrifice for \$10. Ideal for fishing and outboard motor. See Sgt. Huttons—Anti-Tank Co., 167th Inf. 31st Div."

Raffle Results Relished By Co. G.

A company laundry has been formed in Co. G 156th Inf. Pfc. Blaise D. Malagarie won a washing machine in a recent raffle, installed it in the latrine, and now all men of the company are using it . . . rent-free.

THE DIXIE

Official Newspaper of the
Dixie (31st) Division
Camp Blanding, Florida

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The Dixie is published Friday of each week in the interest of the officers and men of the 31st Division with publication offices at Press Section, Division Headquarters.—Phone 240.

LIFE GUARDING

A short word of praise for the forty men in the 167th Infantry who are devoting a part of their leisure time to a course in life saving, with an eye to the days when swimming will become general in Kingsley lake. This is a wise move, for no matter how well a man can swim, there are many things which might happen in a lake as deep as the one adjoining Blanding. All regiments might do well to follow this example, keeping trained men on beach duty at all times when men are in the water. And a course in swimming would probably help the beginners enjoy this natural asset we are lucky enough to possess.

THEATRE MEMO

The following is a list of Feature Attractions showing at the 31st Division Theatre during the coming week. Two performances are available each evening, beginning at 6:30 P. M. and 8:30 P. M. Matinees are shown on Saturday and Sunday afternoons, beginning at 2:00 P. M. Sunday, March 30th the people attending the afternoon performance, which starts at 1:00 P. M., will have the opportunity to stay for the following attractions: Isham Jones and Band; Gene Austin and Co.; Harvey Bell, Master of Ceremonies and singer; Virginia Alter, Vocalist; Eugene Southern, Acrobatic and Tap Dancing; and Jimmy Bigelow, the Banjo King.

SATURDAY, MARCH 29—Double Feature—"Queen of The Mob," starring Ralph Bellamy and Jean Cagney; and "The Villain Still Pursued Her," starring Anita Louise and Richard Cromwell.

SUNDAY & MONDAY, MARCH 30 & 31—"You'll Find Out," starring Kay Kyser, Peter Lorre, Bela Lugosi, and Boris Karloff. Also "Wedding Bills," and "Paramount News."

TUESDAY, APRIL 1—"They Knew What They Wanted," starring Carol Lombard, Charles Laughton, William Gargan, Frank Fay. Also "Prehistoric Porky" and "RKO Pathé News."

WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY, April 2 & 3—"Little Nellie Kelly," starring Judy Garland, George Murphy, and Charles Winninger. Also "Old New Orleans" and "Paramount News."

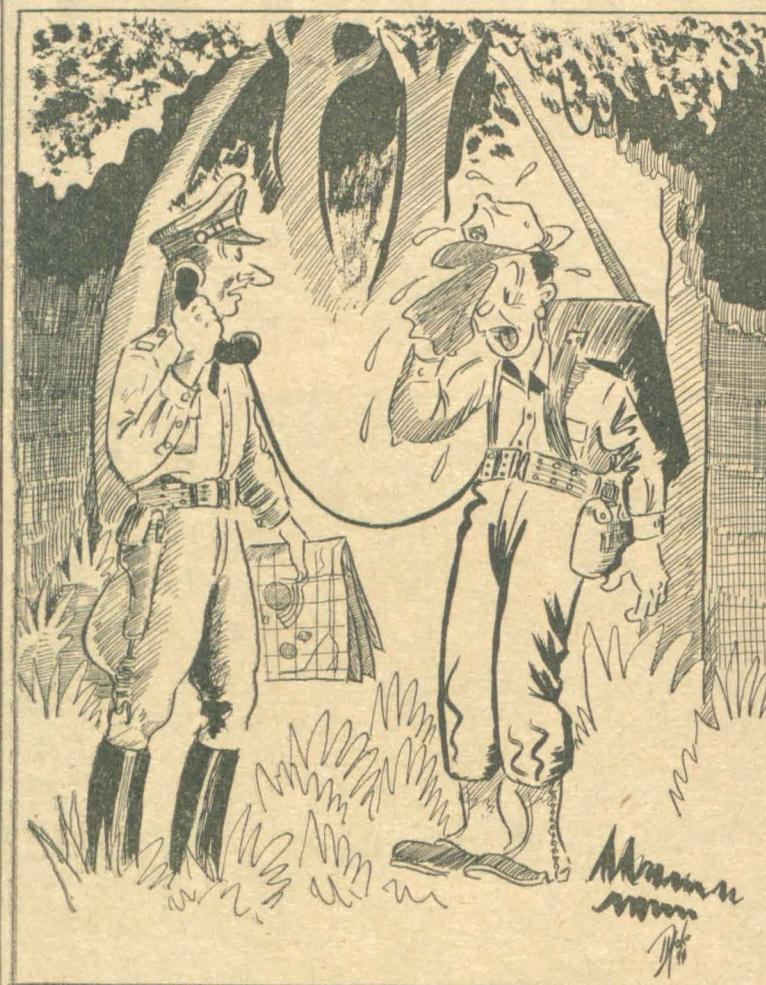
FRIDAY, APRIL 4—"Li'l Abner," starring Granville Owens, Mona Ray, Buster Keaton, and Edgar Kennedy. Also "Hunting Wild Deer."

"The Mad Hatter," and "Community Sing."

SATURDAY, APRIL 5—Double Feature—"Hidden Gold," starring Bill Boyd as Hopalong Cassidy; and "The Mummy's Band," starring Dick Foran, Wallace Ford, Peggy Moran, and Eduardo Ciannelli.

Pvt. Peter Palmetto

By Hale



"You ask 'em, Lootnat—everytime I tell 'em we can't find Camp Blanding, they just say you lucky dogs."

156th Officers' Chef Teaching Co. Cooks

Take a lobster, scoop the meat out from the shell, cook it in a white sauce, add a little Louisiana horse radish, and serve piping hot in the shells.

This might sound like a dull recipe from some Women's Page of a daily newspaper—but when's it's cooked by Staff Sgt. L. Stiebel mess sergeant for the 156th Inf. officers' mess, and served to the field-weary officers of the regiment at the end of the day as Lobster Thermidor, they don't hesitate to bet that they're the best fed group of men in the Dixie Division.

And Lobster Thermidor isn't the only delicacy that is served at this mess. You'll find anything from Filet Mignon with Mushroom Sauce to Shrimp à la Creole on week days, and on Sundays—well, the officers of the regiment can't talk about their Sunday meals—they just lie back and sigh.

Sgt. Stiebel, who owned two restaurants back in Lafayette, La., has a staff of 14 cooks, one from each company in his regiment, whom he is teaching to cook. When he gets through with them, he says he'll probably send them back to the companies. And that won't make the boys in the 156th any too sad.

Sergeant Couldn't Whistle While He Worked

Whistling for his whistle last week was Top Sergeant John C. Dusang, Headquarters Det., 2nd Bat., 156th Inf. Sgt. Dusang had lost the whistle with which he blew his detachment out in the morning. He raised Cain with the company, threatening to cancel all week-end leaves until the tooter was found. After frenzied search, it was found; in the pocket of one of the sergeant's soiled pairs of pants.

Parachute Battalion Officers in Demand

An order from the War Department in Washington was issued this week concerning applications from Infantry officers for transfer to parachute battalions. The order states that all Commanders concerned will take immediate action in getting applications for such transfers, and the names and grades of officers volunteering for such assignment will be furnished direct to the chief of Infantry not later than May 1, 1941.

Qualifications are: Majors must be not over 40 years of age and Captain and lieutenants not over 35; Maximum weight not to exceed 185. Other physical requirements to conform to standards prescribed for promotions. Also, they must have had at least one year's service with troops for Regular Officers and at least six months' for reserve officers as of September 1, 1941.

Will Somebody Name It? Book Another Capture

Soldiers of Battery C, 114th F. A. have captured something which they aren't at all sure is a gopher yet they don't know. It was dug from the battery street by Colonel Bazooka, a dog, promptly captured, and painted a bright red with a white D. D. insignia. Some claim it's just a turtle and some say gopher.

Goat Kicks Bucket; Another Eats in Place

That goat "Junior," of Battery F, 114th F. A., about whom an obituary (on account of his death) was written two Dixies ago, has been replaced by another, "Blackie," (on account of his color) who is rapidly eating his way into the hearts (also trunks, tobacco cans, old shoes, cellophane wrappers, etc.) of the Battery, saving them many a dreary minute of policing.

PRIVATE TALK

BY PRIVATE JAMES ALSOP



The company clerks in the 155th Infantry Regimental Headquarters deserve quite a bit of credit according to Corp. John C. Lawrence. They are quite heavy drinkers (water) and it seems that the higher ups have neglected to put in a water cooler. The only means handy for quenching thirst was a Coca-Cola machine, and army salaries do not stretch through a month of consistent nickel spending. Finally they huddled, and the solution was presented. With faltering hands, the group affixed their signatures to a petition, directed to Master Sergeant Tricon. Well—being deeply worried concerning the "coke" business, the good Sgt. Major placed the petition on the bulletin board the next day. On the bottom was inscribed "No go—Ruin my Coca-Cola business." It was signed by the six striper. But one of the clerks was a fast thinker. He put an add to the epistle. With no signature attached, appeared a little note. "Boycott him. We now will go to the canteen for our 'cokes'." Seeing business disaster staring him in the face, Sgt. Tricon capitulated, and now the boys can drink ice cold water.

And one of our selectees was the father of this one, according to a report from Co. E, 155th Infantry. Lt. Peacock, deciding to meet the newcomers, drifted over to find out about them. As the conversation flowed about the tent, one of the new soldiers straightened from his reclining position and said: "Lt., is it true that they are not allowed to call us draftees?" "Yes," replied the officer. The trainee looked doubtful; "Well it is all right to call each other draftees. That's exactly what I am, cause they darn shore drafted me."

Co. C, 156th Infantry, with whom we sympathized last week about laying four boardwalks, has done it again. They piled into the work, and put the fifth duckwalk into place.

They must certainly think the soldiers have an old and poor taste if the records on our "juke" organs in the canteens are a sample of what we are supposed to like.

This concerns a Colonel and a Private. They were both going home. Both were well-dressed, the Colonel in his uniform, the Private in his best, smuggled, suit. The way they chanced to meet? Well, the Private took a plane, the same boarded a minute earlier by the Colonel of his regiment. Too late to back out then, too high later.

A toast to our up and coming young staff artist, Marshall Hale, who, by the way, often refers to himself as Angus McHale of the clan O'Hale. Next to his love of insane drawings (and this hack will grant that insane is a slight understatement) he would probably list his insatiable love of things Irish and Scotch. Of course we mean music and dialect in both instances. But to the success story—Young Hale has just sold two cartoons to "Pic"; and for a tidy little remittance we hear. Someday he may even be a real artist—and starve in a garrett.

Here's a "first" for the books. Pvt. John D. Blue, Co. A, 106th Q. M., was the first of eight brothers to join the army—and they all followed his lead. Not content with that, he is the first man on the company roll call, first man in the first squad of first section of first Platoon in the 31st Division. He hopes he can stop the string before he has to be a "first" not so agreeable.

We know of about seventy-five boys in this thirty-first Division who could vouch for the efficiency—yea—even absolute supernatural powers—of their Commanding General. The time arose when these young men realized the error of their ways in not taking out insurance.—But the first of the month would be too late. Much surrying around took place; but no one could find a way to remedy the situation. Finally the Division Insurance Officer reminded the worried ones that General Persons had once—way back in civilian life—been a Banker. With realization of the plight of his men, the Commander hit the telephone. In a short while, a group of officers left camp; returning with the wherewithal to permit each man to take as much insurance as he desired.

Girl Poet Answers Soldier's Pitiful Plea

One Alabama Troop, of the 167th Infantry, Sgt. Bill Self, Service Company, voiced an appeal to the governor of his state which might be reverberated through the minds of all the soldiers of the Dixie Division. In a poem published in the "Alabama," the 167th newspaper, this trooper asks his governor for a law . . . "It's merely a law for a soldier's joy

That his girl back home won't fall for another boy,
If you'll do that for us while we're away
We'll vote for you again any old day."

Well, the plea got results, for just as soon as she read it, one of the soldiers' girl friend in another outfit of the regiment immediately assured her benign admirer that he was the only one and would always be the only one regardless of any thing . . . "Now this I say, and I say it true—

You're the boy for me; I'm the girl for you;
So you need not even think of my present dates . . .
You're the one for whom my true heart waits."

It Wasn't The Gun

Sgt. J. D. Cambre, Co. A, 156th Inf., was having a little trouble on the rifle range . . . "Say, Lieutenant, something's wrong with this rifle. Can't seem to get it 'zeroed' or something. Anyhow, every time I shoot it, my shot goes way off."

Capt. Joseph A. Holliday, commander of the company, heard the Sergeant's complaint's. "Let me see that rifle, Sergeant," he asked. Receiving it, he ordered the target to be moved to 300 yards and said he was going to try rapid firing. He got into position, jammed in a clip, fired eight shots, put another clip in and fired eight more. Then he said . . . "Let's see the target, Sergeant."

The target was returned by a goggle-eyed non-com. Capt. Holliday, who hadn't fired on the range in two years, had in 65 seconds made 15 bullseyes out of a possible 16. The sixteenth shot had gone into the area bordering the bullseye.

The Bright Lights Come To Blanding

The Broadway of Blanding is the title soon to come to road C if other Regimental Headquarters follow the lead of the 124th Infantry. A large neon sign blazes the news to the passerby that they are at the bivouac of the famous Florida Regiment. Centered between the two entrances, the "124" glows in red; the Infantry throws off a fitting blue light.

156th Infantry Will Strut For General

Mark down a full week-end for members of the 156th Inf., regiment! Scheduled for Friday afternoon at 3 p. m., is a regimental parade on the outfit's motor court. Saturday morning at 9 a. m., the first regimental review will be held on the motor court.

Inspector in both instances will be Brigadier Gen. Louis F. Guerre, commander of the 61st Inf., Brigade.

Basque Basks In Dixie Hospitality



Far from the school in which he was educated, and among men with whom he has only lately become friends, Private Joseph A. Rodeiro has donned a uniform. Here he is merely a buck private, but at one time he could have worn the braid of an officer in a victorious army. He chose a different course, refusing a commission in Franco's rebel Spanish ranks, and returning to America where he had been born.

In the picture above, Private Roderio is shown being interviewed by DIXIE reporter, Pvt. A. W. Anderson, left foreground. Standing is Private Roderio, and seated at his right is First Sergeant Jimmie Meterin, who assisted when language difficulties arose.

Unlike most of Camp Blanding's soldiers, Roderio has been eye witness to the rise and fall of a democracy, a bloody brother-kill-brother civil war, and to the birth of Europe's newest dictatorship. Speaking in Spanish, for he knows very little English, with his first sergeant (who is a native of Panama) interpreting, Roderio recounted dramatic events.

"My parents are natives of Spain, but moved to this country and made their home in Tampa shortly before I was born. In 1925, when I was 10 years old, our family (besides my parents I have a brother) returned to Spain, ostensibly to live there always. We settled in Cee, lived there nine years, and then moved to Santirago. In the later city I attended the University of Santirago for three years.

"I was in Spain when King Alphonso was exiled and a democracy established. The unhappy Spanish Civil War broke out while I was in my first year at the University and my sympathies were with the Loyalist government, although I hated the traces of Communism that were to be found within it, for I love democracy like ours here.

"During the second year of the war, and during my third year at the university, I was offered a commission in General Franco's rebel army, which was well on the way to victory by then. I refused—I did not believe in the doctrine of force for which the rebel army was fighting—and I did not want a commission in hell.

"Because I was not in the army I could get no work, and in May, 1938, we returned to America—to Tampa. Before I volunteered and was sent to this camp I was a waiter in Garcia's La Novedades restaurant in Tampa. Now I am here and I will be glad to fight for democracy."

When queried how he liked the U. S. Army, he was quick to reply "I like it very much, and I love the democratic spirit between the officers, non-commissioned officers, and the men—in the Span-

Selectees Snap Into New Company

Although "slipped up on," the 106th Medical Regiment definitely wasn't caught napping Thursday when it gained an entire company in one fell swoop. At 4 p. m., Capt. Frank L. Ramsay, C. O. of the recently activated Company C, was notified 62 selectees were on their way to his unit. At 4:25 they arrived, and by 6:15 every one of the new men had been bedded down and were eating a hot meal.

Rations were ample, too, with Companies A and B giving the selectees their first Dixie meal.

12 Straight Cage Tilts

Keeping its record for games won unmarred, the basketball team of Co. A, 156th Inf., took its twelfth straight win Sunday night from the Anti-Tank Co., of the same regiment, 38-18. The game was played at the Green Cove Springs High School Auditorium in Green Cove Springs.

56 Brigade Besieges Atlantic Ocean

The 56th Brigade, commanded by Brigadier General Sumter L. Lowry, Jr., and comprising the 114th, 116th and 117th Field Artilleries, marched to Jacksonville Beach this week on a two-day maneuver described by officers as "successful" and with superlatives by enlisted men.

Utilizing off-hours, many of the soldiers from Alabama and Mississippi enjoyed the chills and thrills of the Atlantic for the first time, despite the cold water reminder that winter is not altogether a thing of the past. Approximately 3,000 made the trip.

ish army officers and non-coms can strike and humiliate the soldiers. I love the United States and I am proud to be in her Army—I can appreciate her more because I have been where democracy has fallen."

Band From Land of Jazz Plays Swing for 106th

Bandsmen from "down where Jazz was born," New Orleans, moved into the 106th Quartermaster regimental recreation hall March 28, when the 156th Inf. band, made up mainly of players from New Orleans, invaded the Quartermasters to present a variety show.

The band, under the direction of Warrant Officer Frank Rosato, presented a program including several comedy skits, tap dancing by former professional Hayes Herbert, a skit entitled "Life of A Soldier," and hottest of hot swing in between numbers.

Army Going To Dogs; Serial No. For Mutts

Far be it from the Army to neglect the domesticity of life. No, such is not the case, because dogs are given full recognition. But, they must be vaccinated and properly cared for, of course. A recent order says so, and also they must be tagged with a number and have a collar (which they are not allowed to pull off at any time). They are recorded by number along with the name, rank and organization of their owner. Information given with their record includes the dog's name, breed, age, sex, color, weight and markings. However, if the dogs are not properly tagged and "collared" they will be "arrested." (They will not be mistreated while "in the jug"). After five days, if not called for, the dogs will be hanged or electrocuted, maybe . . . anyway they will be destroyed, says the order. They will, however, be advertised in the camp bulletin for the five days. And when called for the dogs will be fined to the tune of the price of their keep while jailed.

Religious Groups Form In Louisiana Regiment

More than 150 men attended the initial services of the Protestant Sunday school formed last Sunday in the 156th Inf., regiment by Chaplain L. W. Storey. The group was divided into four classes, supervised respectively by men of Methodist, Baptist, Presbyterian, and Episcopalian faith.

Planned is a night devotional service for young men of all denominations on Sunday nights. Organizations from neighboring churches will be invited to present programs at these services, Chaplain Storey said.

A regimental Catholic Holy Name Society was formed several weeks ago.

Gentle, and Does the Trick, This Awakener

Sgt. W. W. Paris, of the 114th F. A. Band, in what we suspect is a direct copy from Rube Goldberg, claims that he has the most simultaneous, gentle, but persuasive means of awakening boys at 5:30 in the morning that he or we know of.

He sets the alarm on his clock for 5:30 a. m. The bell hammer trips a lever that sets off a sort of burglar alarm or sprinkler system relayed to all the tent. With the noise the boys are reminded that day is here once more and grope. They know what to do from there.

Alabama Artists To Have Fling In Amateur Shows

The 167th is calling for drama talent. Soldiers of the regiment who are interested in drama will be cast in productions, before long. Their manager is private Connie LaConto of the Service Company. Pvt. LaConto has a colorful background of experience in this sort of work before he got in the Army, which suggests he will meet with much success with the fellows in this. He was assistant to a dramatics instructor in New York before coming South to live. For three months before mobilization of the National Guard, LaConto was doing radio work in Gadsden, Ala., being manager of a troupe of musicians and arranging their music and skits.

The majority of the entertainment to be offered by Pvt. LaConto and his fellows will be in the form of amateur programs. He invites amateur entertainers of all kinds and calibres to toss their hats in the ring . . . says there's plenty of fun fore everyone . . . wants each to get his share.

Engineer Regiment Completes Survey

That question "Where is the 31st going on maneuvers?" may still be a moot one, but meanwhile a party from the 106th Engineers has reconnoitered a 1,000 sq. mile strip near here at the request of Fourth Corps engineers for the purpose of determining suitability of that area as a maneuver ground. According to findings the section could accommodate one or two divisions.

Every section of the block extending south of Middleburg to Palatka and west of the St. John's river to Starke was recorded by the party, with a combined report including location of all swampy areas, thickets, impassable streams, thickly settled areas, fences and backwood trails.

The survey was made in one week by a group which included all the officers and 60 non-coms, forming 40 odd reconnaissance parties. The resulting map, while not classed a precision sketch, shows far more information and detail than any other existing data. Copies have been given to each regiment in the 31st Division.

Half Holiday Plans For Dixie Veterans

Beginning next Wednesday, April 2, the 31st Division troops will have a half holiday on Wednesdays, that is, the soldiers who were mobilized last November and have had basic training; not the newly arrived selectees.

This half holiday will be used for recreational activities. Some regiments have plans in working order already for the half day. The 167th will immediately begin a tournament for softball artists, playing ten games each Wednesday afternoon, in which each unit will enter a team. This regiment has also outlined a program of boxing, volleyball and other popular sports. Every man will take part in some sport or activity he likes. This date is being looked forward to with deep anticipation.

General Scores As Range Opens

Major General John Persons personally showed soldiers of the 155th Infantry how to shoot a rifle as the Division range practice opened this week.

The General took the prone position on the sandy firing line and squeezed the trigger to get off the first shot of range firing. Down went his target for marking and when it reappeared a white disk in the bull's-eye showed where he had hit. Taking careful aim, at the same two-hundred yard range the commanding General of the 31st Division fired again and once more the coveted white disk indicated a bull's-eye.

Said the General, "I don't believe it myself" but the officer in the pit assured him that it was no courtesy scoring. The shots were perfect. Content with his record, the General withdrew and the firing line filled with eager young soldiers, out to shoot like the General.

And the Rest of the Family, How Are They?

The order came through that leaves were to be granted only in cases of emergency. Pvt. E. J. Clements, Service Co., 156th Inf., did some tall thinking . . .

"Say," he reported to his Top Sergeant, "I want leave. My girl is desperately ill."

"See me in the morning," said the Top. "I won't have anything to do then."

In the morning . . . "Say, Sergeant, my sister is getting worse." He was put off again.

Later that afternoon, Pvt. Clements tried again. "Remember, Sergeant, I told you about my mother being sick, I'd like to get that leave home."

The Sergeant gave Pvt. Clements a hard look. "And how's your grandmother?" inquired the Top Kick.

Historic Instrument Sets Step For 156th

Recruits of the 156th Infantry know that they've been marching this week to the music of the regimental band . . . but what they do not know is that the instrument that sets the cadence for them to march by was first used in a crack Alpine regiment before the First World War.

The instrument, called a metronome, is a musical clock used by musicians for setting a regular cadence. It was handed down to Warrant Officer Frank Rosato, leader of the 156th band, by his father, Joseph Rosato, who served in a similar position in the Italian Army to that held by his son in the American Army today, and was used to set the cadence for the Alpine regiment's marching.

Colorful Company

Going into technicolor in the matter of company markers is Co. K, 156th Inf. Many outfits in the Division have made their locations noticeable by spelling out the name of the company and the regiment in white limestone rocks along neighboring ditchbanks. But the boys of Co. K have gone them one better. They've dyed some of the rocks and added the insignia of the Dixie Division . . . the "DD" to their sign . . . Just as it appears on shoulder patches.



Three men from Headquarters Company, 155th Infantry demonstrate the new portable radio set now in use in the Dixie Division. This unit can be set up and begin operation in the space of a few seconds. Power is furnished by a hand turned generator, worked by Sgt. Robert Young in background, can transmit messages from regimental commander to combat units. The operator, Sgt. Paul Schneider, is assisted by Sgt. Charles Young. —Staff Photo

It All Comes Back To Him Now

You've heard company clerks hammer on the men to fill out their names when they sign the payroll—or the dern thing would come back. Well Sgt. Robert Bryant, Co. C, 167th Inf., was no exception. He hammered too, he didn't want any mistakes to mar the good clean record of his company with the finance department. So, he succeeded in his hard pushed efforts to get the boys to sign it just right, every one of them. Well, the pay roll was finished and sent in to the finance office. Back it came, and what do you think was wrong? The company clerk had failed to sign his name the way it was supposed to be!



From his spot atop the five story observation tower on the Artillery range, a 155th Infantry sergeant takes a squint to find out what always interests artillery observers so much. This tower affords a clear view of the entire range, permitting perfect directing of fire. —Staff Photo

Grinding Out Either Waves



Three men from Headquarters Company, 155th Infantry demonstrate the new portable radio set now in use in the Dixie Division. This unit can be set up and begin operation in the space of a few seconds. Power is furnished by a hand turned generator, worked by Sgt. Robert Young in background, can transmit messages from regimental commander to combat units. The operator, Sgt. Paul Schneider, is assisted by Sgt. Charles Young. —Staff Photo

Alabama Units March To Church

Companies of the 167th marched to Church last Sunday under their guidons, following the plan which started a few Sundays ago. They fall in behind the band and are "played" to Church. Attendance is growing each Sunday and this method of going to church is becoming very popular. A record attendance of five hundred soldiers turned out Sunday. Corp. Copeland of 155th Infantry delivered the morning address.

Venetian Blinds and Swank Atmosphere

Regimental officers of the 155th Infantry boast one of the finest mess halls in the 31st Division and claim it was done on \$23.90, a blow-torch and the zeal of 1st Sgt. J. H. Koops and mess-sgt. Glen A. Ray.

The \$23.90 went for Venetian blinds. Other material was lying around. Squares of sheet-rock to cover exposed wall and ceiling. Bare boards and wood strips were taken down, burned with the blow-torch to remove resin and give a charred, spotted appearance, then varnished and put back.

Final effect is a smart little dining hall which might be the side room of some swank New Orleans restaurant; but isn't, of course.

They Get Around

If you've wondered how 106th Engineer soldiers always manage to have dates or at any rate know where dates are, oddly, it came about in line of military duties.

On a recent surveying detail they learned the location of every farm house and consequently every farmer's daughter between Starke and the swamps of the St. John's river at Palatka. Just ask 'em.

Louisiana Soldiers On Very Short Wave

Co. G, 156th Inf., went on a battalion-wide hook-up last Sunday afternoon when members of the company broadcast a program of French songs and imitations over the one-watt Co. F radio station to other companies of the 2nd Battalion.

On the program were Pvt. Colmar Trahan, who sang Creole folksongs and Corp. Pat Aucoin, who gave imitations of Donald Duck.

The program was reportedly picked up by powerful sets in the 1st and 3rd Battalions of the same regiment.

Infantry Unit Has Distinction

When you see a soldier from the 167th Infantry wearing a braid on his left shoulder, you'll know he's from the famed Company F, which is from Gadsden, Alabama. This dark green braid has a meaning behind it which brings to light an interesting story. During the World War this company made for itself an undying record of bravery and adroitness in handling the enemy. This decoration, which is the French "Croix de Guerre" and designated by the wearing of the "Fourragere," (the braid) was made on July 26, 1919 with the following citation: "On July 15, 1918, on the Champagne front in close cooperation with the French units of the first line, Company F, 167th Infantry regiment, American Infantry, under the command of an energetic chief, Captain Wyatt, contributed by its valor in breaking all the assaults of the enemy, causing the latter enormous losses and winning the admiration of the neighboring French organizations by its bravery and indifference to danger."

This spirit of "forwardness" remains with Company F right now, here at Camp Blanding, and with the whole 167th. The company is now under the command of Captain E. W. Redman, a Gadsden man well known in his home town. Gadsden is also the home town of the regimental commander, Colonel Walter M. Thompson.

Success Story In Five Months

Another name to add to the list of Uncle Sam's youthful Master sergeants, the youngest in the Dixie Division, Master Sergeant Bill Self of Headquarters staff, 167th Infantry is only 21 years old. (Will be 22 in Sept.) He is regimental personnel sergeant-major. He enlisted in the National Guard on Nov. 6, 1940, grade of private, buck, was promoted to staff sgt. Nov. 24 and to Master sergeant Jan. 1, 1941. He had no previous military training at enlistment. He is from Gadsden, Alabama and was employed by a steel company there, before he got in the Army. So there's always hope.

Checker Champ of New Orleans in Dixie

An open challenge to all checker players is issued by Pvt. Theodore Freese, Jr., bandsman of the 156th Inf. Pvt. Freese was the city checker champion of New Orleans before he joined the army.

Bathing Beaches To Be Built By Bamans

The 167th will soon have a beach on beautiful Kingsley Lake which will put to shame anything on the Atlantic coast . . . or, that's what we think. Beautiful glistening white sand, indispensable to a beach, palm trees also are necessary so they have been planted too, and the elevation of the play spot is made to order. It is expected by soldiers of this regiment that there will be plenty of applications to join the Army when civilians learn of this play spot . . . Wotta vacation (!)

Sergeant Double Talks; General Understands

S. G. Simon, Co. H, 156th, from the French section of South Louisiana, was explaining a columnar movement in English to a group of recruits he was training. Finding the English words hard to form he lapsed into French.

Suddenly he noticed that the recruits were staring at something behind him. Without turning around, he asked, "What do you want?"

"Repetez-vous," (repeat yourself) a soft voice ordered. "I understand French too."

Sgt. Simon repeated his explanation of the movement.

Still in French, the voice thanked him . . . "If we ever need an interpreter, Sergeant, I'll remember you."

Sgt. Simon looked around. He'd been talking with Brigadier Gen. Louis F. Guerre, commander of the 61st Brigade.

Looking for Excitement? Take a Lesson Here

Here's a huddle, what a huddle . . . a huddle like the rugged, rugged stars from rugged grid-irons back at home used to get into just before they went out on the scrimmage line to make history for their alma mater. There's an occasional burst of laughter from the tightly packed group and now and then a shout . . . whatever it is, it must be plenty interesting—to hold a red blooded group like that so spell bound. "My time; o. k., take it . . . your nose to the ground . . . his turn now; wow! wotta gouge! now you go." What's it all about, the passerby wants to know? who are they? They're that hard hitting' Co. F, of the 167th Inf. Well, what're they doin? Dunno. Let's see. Closer investigation reveals a hot game of mumblety peg!

Club Complimented

The Dixie D club seemed to have made quite a hit in St. Augustine. Col. McNeese, Division Public Relations Officer received a letter last week from the Chamber of Commerce, praising the conduct of the club members and their guests. Following is an excerpt from the letter: "I wish to commend the members and guests of the Dixie D club for their splendid conduct and their all around congeniality."

Paging Capt. Battle

Very appropriate is the name of Brigadier General Louis F. Guerre, commander of the 61st Brigade. "Guerre" in French means "war."